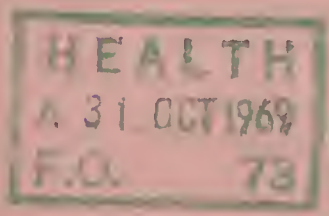


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Gelligaer Urban District Council.



ACKd. R  
*Wsc*  
*31/10/68*



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**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

and

**Senior Public Health Inspector**

For the year

**1968**



Gelligaer Urban District Council.



# REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the year

1968



Telephone : Hengoed 2241.

20th. August, 1969

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the state of the public health in the Gelligaer Urban Area, and the work of the Public Health Department during 1968.

The estimated mid-year population was 34,644 compared with 34,770 in 1967. The crude death rate in 1968 was 11.8 per 1,000. The adjusted death rate was higher than the national rate, the ratio being 1.29. The ratio of the local adjusted death rate to the rate for the Administrative County of Glamorgan was 1.20. One outstanding fact was that in 1968 no deaths occurred between the age of 3 months and 15 years, and only 3 deaths occurred between the ages of 15 and 25 years, one of these being due to suicide, and one to a motor vehicle accident. The rapid decline in mortality in children and young adults over the past years has been chiefly due to the conquering of infectious diseases, including tuberculosis. The other significant fact is the difference in middle age mortality between the sexes. In 1968 between the ages of 55 and 65 there were 55 male and 27 female deaths. The difference is caused by the high death rate in males at these ages resulting from coronary artery disease, bronchitis and cancer of the lung. Cigarette smoking is known to be the most important cause of cancer of the lung, is a significant factor in bronchitis, and possibly also in death from coronary artery disease.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 19 deaths per 1,000 live births, which was the lowest ever recorded, and compares favourably with Glamorgan's rate which was 21, and was only a little higher than the rate for England and Wales on the whole, which was 18. 50% of the deaths occurred in the first week of life, and 66% in the first 4 weeks of life. Many factors contribute to the lowering of the Infant Mortality Rate, including improved ante-natal care, improved housing conditions, and other social conditions, control of family size, and also the lowering in incidence of infectious diseases.

The only large numbers of Infectious Diseases notified were Dysentery ( 160 cases) and Measles ( 59 cases). There was an outbreak of Dysentery caused by Shigella Sonnei at Bedlinog at the end of the year. Two infants' schools were closed for a week, and the outbreak quickly subsided. The disease was mild, and no-one was admitted to hospital and no death was attributed to it. The number of cases of Measles notified was the lowest recorded and this improvement was probably due in part to the vaccination campaign which started in the spring of 1968.





Seven new cases of Tuberculosis were notified and there were four deaths. Although the numbers are very low, the fact that cases still occur gives no grounds for complacency, and the protection of children with B.C.G., and the checking of contacts continues to play an important part in preventive health measures.

During 1968 the improvement of housing conditions in the area continued with 105 new houses being completed and occupied, and 299 new houses in course of erection. These were at the new housing sites at Gilfach Bargoed and Pontlloftyn. It was decided in the year to continue with the clearing of unfit houses at Pontlloftyn. The Authority rehoused all the families from Hills Terrace, Hengoed, and eventually all these houses will be demolished. In addition, 72 private houses have been improved with Grant Aid so that basic amenities of bath, wash-hand basin, indoor toilet, hot and cold water and food store have been provided. Consideration is also being given to the declaration of Improvement Areas.

The water supply continues to be adequate and satisfactory, although temporary cuts in supply have caused inconvenience, especially in Fochriw and Bedlinog.

Atmospheric Pollution at Bargoed continues to be a source of concern, especially when easterly winds prevail, and this occurred in September and December resulting in complaints from residents. All possible measures are taken to keep this pollution as low as possible, and constant checking of the situation is undertaken.

The Meals for the Aged Service continued during the year, when nearly 100,000 meals were provided to aged persons. It is certain that the meals provided, together with such services as Home Helps, District Nurses, and Housing help many old folk to stay in their own homes instead of having to enter a Welfare Home or Hospital.

The number of medical examinations undertaken has increased during the year, due chiefly to the wise decision of the Council in arranging periodic medical examinations of Council 'bus drivers.

Discussion has taken place during the year on the suggested changes in the administrative structure of the National Health Service as outlined in the Government's Green Paper, and also on changes in the Social Services, as recommended in the Seebohm report, and it can be anticipated that in the future there will be considerable changes in the Public Health Services.

I wish to thank the County Divisional Medical Officer for information given on the County Council Services, and the Housing Manager for information on housing.





I wish also to pay tribute to all my colleagues in the Public Health Department for their loyalty, and for the efficient and enthusiastic way in which they have worked during the past year.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all Members and Officers of the Council for their great help, consideration, and co-operation in 1968.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH G. JAMES

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman	-	W. H. Coleman, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	-	K. G. Turner

Members of the Council

H. A. Andrews	E. J. Jenkins
Walter Bowen	F. J. Jenkins
E. E. Burgess	J. H. Jones
A. E. Carey	William Jones, J.P.
D. B. Cooke	James Morris
John Davies	W. Poyntz
R. Dymond	H. Price
E. Evans	H. L. Roberts, J.P.
H. V. Edwards	G. T. Richards, J.P.
P. G. Hancock	A. R. Rogers
B. Harris	H. J. B. Rogers
D. E. Harris	Cledwen Williams

Public Health Committee

Chairman	-	H. V. Edwards
Vice-Chairman	-	D. B. Cooke

H. A. Andrews  
W. Bowen  
W. H. Coleman, J.P.  
E. Evans  
P. G. Hancock  
F. J. Jenkins  
J. Morris  
W. Poyntz  
H. Price  
G. T. Richards, J.P.  
A. R. Rogers  
K. G. Turner



CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council	-	D. W. C. Morgan, Ll. B.
Treasurer and Accountant	-	H. E. B. Matthews, A.I.M.T.A.
Engineer and Surveyor	-	W. T. Luke, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.
Housing Manager	-	J. E. E. Bird, A.M.B.I.M., A.G.S.
Omnibus Manager	-	Roy Marshall, A.M. Inst. T.

PUBLIC HEALTH. STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	-	Elizabeth G. James, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	T. P. Thomas, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.H.
District Public Health Inspector	-	E. G. Rawlings, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R. S. H.
Clerical Staff	-	L. Chilton
Pupil Public Health Inspector	-	G. Walwyn
Rodent Officer	-	L. Trollope
Pest Officer	-	A. Bate
Meals Organiser	-	Mrs. D. Bate

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT

Population	-	34, 640
Total Acreage	-	16, 772
Rateable value	-	£696,691
Product of ld. rate	-	£2,767





EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population - 34,640

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>							<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	588	312	276
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	14	14
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	616	326	290
<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>									
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	-
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	3

LIVE BIRTHS

1945	-	742
1946	-	794
1947	-	830
1948	-	786
1949	-	759
1950	-	708
1951	-	631
1952	-	629
1953	-	664
1954	-	644
1955	-	672
1956	-	649
1957	-	667
1958	-	647
1959	-	648
1960	-	605
1961	-	634
1962	-	688
1963	-	675
1964	-	676
1965	-	690
1966	-	658
1967	-	657
1968	-	616



The number of live births in 1968 was 616. This gives a crude birth rate of 17.8 per 1,000 home population and is very similar to the national rate. The ratio to the national rate is 1.05.

During the late 1940's the number of births was high. The number slowly decreased during the 1950's, recording the lowest figure of 605 in 1960. The number then increased until 1965, and has since been declining. The numbers may increase over the next few years due to the increasing number of women in the 20's. This increase in the number of women of child bearing age is a consequence of the higher birth rate in the late 1940's.

Factors affecting the number of births, are the age structure, and size of the population, and the facilities available for advice on Family Planning.

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### DEATHS

During 1968, deaths numbered 409 - 212 males , 197 females .

1959	-	390
1960	-	411
1961	-	396
1962	-	423
1963	-	425
1964	-	398
1965	-	416
1966	-	413
1967	-	385
1968	-	409

### MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There were 409 deaths in the Urban Area during the year 1968, giving a crude death rate of 11.8 per 1,000 home population. This is higher than the national average. The ratio of the local adjusted death rate to the national death rate is 1.29.

The following table gives the number of deaths at different ages :-

0 - 1 years	-	12	-	5 males, 7 females
1 - 15 years	-	nil		
15 - 25 years	-	3	-	3 males
25 - 35 years	-	1	-	no males , 1 female
35 - 45 years	-	9	-	5 males , 4 females
45 - 55 years	-	36	-	17 males , 19 females
55 - 65 years	-	82	-	55 males , 27 females
65 - 75 years	-	107	-	54 males , 53 females
75 and over	-	159	-	73 males , 86 females

Of the three deaths occurring in the age group 1 - 25 , 1 was due to a motor vehicle accident, 1 due to suicide, and the other due to chronic rheumatic disease.

Accident is now the only significant cause of death in this age group. The rapid fall in mortality at these ages over the past 50 years results chiefly in the decline of death due to Infectious Diseases. It is interesting to note from the Annual Reports for the Gelligaer Area in 1911 that there were 116 deaths in this age group. Of these, 21 were caused by Tuberculosis, 20 by Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 18 by Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 7 by Diphtheria, 7 by Measles, and 6 by Whooping Cough. In the age group 25 - 35, there were 46 deaths, of which 24 were female and 22 males. The chief causes were malignant disease and Ischaemic Heart Disease.



In the age group 55 - 65 there is a striking difference between the number of deaths in males (55) and females (27). This is caused by the higher number of deaths in males from disease of the coronary arteries, bronchitis, and cancer of the lung. It is distressing that so many men in our area die before they reach pensionable age. The cause, or causes, of coronary heart disease have not been determined with any degree of accuracy, so that prevention of death from this cause is difficult to achieve. Factors associated with coronary disease are heredity, obesity, lack of physical exercise, and cigarette smoking.

As is now well known, cigarette smoking is by far the most important cause of cancer of the lung, and is also a significant factor in the causation of bronchitis. The following tables give the trend over the past ten years in the important causes of death :-

		<u>Deaths from</u> <u>Cancer</u>				<u>Deaths from</u> <u>Cancer of the Lung</u>
1959	...	66	...	...	...	9
1960	...	62	...	...	...	11
1961	...	62	...	...	...	15
1962	...	68	...	...	...	16
1963	...	65	...	...	...	11
1964	...	71	...	...	...	12
1965	...	71	...	...	...	18
1966	...	63	...	...	...	10
1967	...	63	...	...	...	8
1968	...	70	...	...	...	11

Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Disease

1959	...	151
1960	...	149
1961	...	132
1962	...	153
1963	...	145
1964	...	116
1965	...	146
1966	...	155
1967	...	124
1968	...	152



CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases ...	78	74	152
Deaths from Cancer ... ..	39	31	70
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	26	36	62
Deaths from Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	23	7	30
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis	1	0	1
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	0	3
Deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis ...	-	1	1
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	2	1	3
Deaths from Peptic Ulcer ... ..	2	4	6
Deaths from Influenza ... ..	0	2	2
Deaths from Pneumonia ... ..	7	8	15
Deaths from other Diseases of the Respiratory System	9	5	14
Deaths from other Violent Causes ... ..	2	2	4
Deaths from Diabetes ... ..	2	3	5
Deaths from Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	2	0	2
Deaths from Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	1	2





INFANTILE MORTALITY

AGE AT DEATH	DEATHS OCCURRING IN HOSPITAL		DEATHS OCCURRING AT HOME	
	NO.	CAUSE	NO.	CAUSE
0 - 1 day	2 1 1 1	Prematurity Atalectasis Ex-Sanguination Multiple Congenital deformities	-	
1 - 2 days	-		-	
2 - 3 days	-		-	
3 - 4 days	-		-	
4 - 5 days	-		-	
5 - 6 days	-		-	
6 - 7 days	1	Respiratory failure	-	
1 - 2 weeks	-		-	
2 - 3 weeks	-		-	
3 - 4 weeks	1	Gastro-enteritis	-	
1 - 2 months	1	Broncho-pneumonia	-	
2 - 3 months	-		1	Aspiration Vomitus
3 - 4 months	-		1 2	Pulm. Oedema Aspiration Vomitus
4 - 5 months	-		-	
5 - 6 months	-		-	
6 - 7 months	-		-	
7 - 8 months	-		-	
8 - 9 months	-		-	
9 - 10 months	-		-	
10 - 11 months	-		-	
11 - 12 months	-		-	
Total	8		4	



Major Central Nervous System  
Malformations in South Wales

Recently published are the results of a survey into central nervous system malformations ( anencephaly, spina bifida cystica, and congenital hydrocephalus, occurring in children born between 1956 and 1962 in Glamorgan (excluding West Glamorgan Division, Borough of Neath, Barry, and districts of Penarth and Whitchurch) and the mining valleys of Monmouthshire.

The survey was undertaken by Dr. K. M. Lawrence and his colleagues and was reported in the British Journal of Preventive and Social Medicine in July and October 1968.

During the survey, 835 cases were recorded out of 102,786 total births, i.e. 8.1 per 1,000 births. In Glamorgan, the lowest rate was in the South East Division ( 5.78) and the highest was in the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Division (9.57). The rate in East Monmouthshire was 11.08.

It was concluded that there is an inherited predisposition to central nervous system malformations in certain populations interacting with environmental trigger mechanism.





PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Total	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-75	75 +
Whooping Cough	5	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	59	9	5	9	4	11	16	5	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	160	6	12	13	10	8	72	8	23	6	2	-

Changes in Notifications

During 1968, changes took place in the notification of infectious diseases. Infective jaundice became notifiable from June ( Public Health Infective Jaundice Regulations 1968. On 1st. October, 1968, the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations came into operation. Acute Primary Pneumonia, acute Influenzal Pneumonia and Puerperal Fever are no longer to be notified. Tetanus and Yellow Fever require, for the first time, to be notified. Leptospirosis, hitherto to be notified in certain areas, is now to be notified throughout England and Wales.

Dysentery

160 cases of Dysentery were notified in 1968. The majority of these cases occurred during an outbreak at Bedlinog. Information was received on November 18th that a great number of children in Bedlinog Infants School were suffering from diarrhoea. This was shown to be due to infection by Shigella Sonnei. In view of the difficulties of coping with a large number of children with diarrhoea, and in an attempt to prevent the spread to unaffected children, the school was closed. The school was cleaned and disinfected and re-opened after a week - only children with negative findings being admitted. By the end of term, 90% of the children were back at school. A similar explosive outbreak started at Graig Infants and Nursery School at Bedlnog on 21st. November. This school was also closed for a week and similar procedures and precautions undertaken. Most of the cases occurred in these two schools but a few cases in infants and older children and adults, usually close contacts of the young schoolchildren occurred. The number of cases notified each week were :-

23rd. November	-	30
30th. November	-	76
7th. December	-	12
14th. December	-	17
21st. December	-	18
28th. December	-	4



No positive results were obtained from members of the canteen staff or from meals' assistants at the schools, and only one member of the staff was infected. All food handlers in the village were investigated and no positive result obtained. In spite of widespread investigation, the source of the outbreak was not discovered. All cases were mild, and no-one was admitted to hospital. There were no deaths attributed to Sonnei Dysentery.

The opportunity was taken to educate the public, and especially food handlers on the importance of cleanliness and on a high standard of personal hygiene.

### Brucellosis

No known cases of Brucellosis occurred in the area in 1968. Many farmers in the area have now been certified as having brucella free herds. Others send all their milk to be pasteurised so that there is no risk. Sampling and testing at regular intervals of untreated milk supplies continues to be undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors.

### Tuberculosis

The number of new cases and the number of deaths still remain at a low level. The conquest of Tuberculosis has been one of the great advances in medicine in recent years. In 1939, The Welsh National Memorial Association had under its control hospitals and sanatoria providing 1,419 beds. All of these hospitals have now changed their functions and continue as chest hospitals at part capacity. The last to be built, at Sully, is now the major Welsh centre for all chest diseases and for thoracic and cardiac surgery. The very fact, however, that cases of Tuberculosis still occur means that there are no grounds for complacency and protection of school leavers with B. C. G.; Mass Radiography with its search for new cases, and checking of all contacts of cases continue to play an important part in the preventive health services. In the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division, 608 children of 13 years and over were given B.C.G. vaccination during 1968. Parental consent for B. C. G. was given in 73.6% of the children eligible for vaccination

### Measles

59 cases of Measles were notified in 1968, as compared with 517 in 1967 ; 231 in 1966 ; 161 in 1965 ; 116 in 1964; and 328 in 1963.

A Measles vaccination campaign was launched in the spring of 1968, the aim being to protect the most vulnerable. 722 children were vaccinated in 1968 in the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division, and this most certainly contributed to the low number of cases recorded in 1968.





Other Vaccination and Immunisation Procedures

The following figures relate to the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division :-

Primary vaccination and revaccination against Smallpox	-	412
Vaccination against Poliomyelitis	-	1417
Booster doses against Poliomyelitis	-	669
Primary Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	-	1260
Booster Triple Injections	-	1105

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TUBERCULOSIS

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 - 69 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 years and over	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Total	4	1	-	2	3	-	-	1

INCIDENCE AND DEATHS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>INCIDENCE</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
1959 ...	33 ...	4
1960 ...	30 ...	6
1961 ...	19 ...	6
1962 ...	15 ...	9
1963 ...	18 ...	5
1964 ...	13 ...	1
1965 ...	18 ...	4
1966 ...	10 ...	-
1967 ...	3 ...	5
1968 ...	7 ...	4



HOUSING

The Council's Housing Department has supplied the following information :-

Number of houses completed and occupied in 1968	-	105
Number sanctioned and in course of erection	-	299
Number completed and occupied since 1918	-	2,547 plus 100 prefabs. now demolished
Number of applicants on the Council's housing list at 31.12.68-	820	
Number of families rehoused in 1968	-	213
Number of families in which Tuberculosis was a factor	-	4
Number of families rehoused as a result of Closing Orders	-	13
Number of Old Age Pensioners' rehoused	-	12
Number of Key Workers rehoused	-	5

The Industrialised bungalows at Cefn Hengoed were completed and the families who were temporarily rehoused at Gelligaer were rehoused in their properties. The Gilfach Bargoed site is now under way and 83 applicants have been rehoused in these properties which are of Packer Morris standard.

Only one vacancy occurred at St. Gwladys' Court, Bargoed.

Thirty three families were removed from the list of applicants, having purchased their own properties.

The Authority purchased houses at 66 and 67, Greenfield St., Bargoed ; 4, Cross St., Gilfach ; 13 and 26, Birchgrove, Tirphil ; 52, St. Cattwg Ave., Gelligaer; and 6, Aelybryn, Fochriw.

Bathrooms are being installed at St. Cattwg's Avenue, Gelligaer, thus improving the properties.

The Authority has rehoused all the families from Hills Terrace, Hengoed and these will now be demolished.



### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Measurement of atmospheric pollution at Bargoed continued during 1968 :-

<u>Month</u>		<u>Rainfall</u> ( in inches)		<u>Solids ( in tons per</u> <u>square mile)</u>
January	-	4 . 23	-	15 . 00
February	-	1 . 55	-	10 . 50
March	-	4 . 36	-	17 . 11
April	-	2 . 93	-	17 . 67
May	-	3 . 03	-	14 . 88
June	-	2 . 61	-	11 . 47
July	-	3 . 64	-	20 . 15
August	-	1 . 81	-	9 . 00
September	-	7 . 06	-	23 . 43
October	-	5 . 59	-	14 . 68
November	-	3 . 16	-	15 . 90
December	-	5 . 07	-	23 . 36

Total amount deposited per square mile in the past ten years was :-

1968	-	192 . 70 tons
1967	-	194 . 00 tons
1966	-	196 . 36 tons
1965	-	239 . 04 tons
1964	-	199 . 94 tons
1963	-	210 . 33 tons
1962	-	197 . 93 tons
1961	-	229 . 17 tons
1960	-	294 . 53 tons
1959	-	361 . 56 tons.

The extent of pollution is measured by exposing a standard deposit gauge on the roof of the Emporium at Bargoed. Bargoed is the worst part of the area for atmospheric pollution because of the National Coal Board works. Monthly readings vary considerably on the amount of pollution, direction and velocity of the wind, and the humidity of the atmosphere. During September and December there were high easterly winds, which increased the pollution at Bargoed and resulted in complaints from residents. A meeting was arranged between Councillors and representatives of the National Coal Board, who gave details of grit arresting equipment in use, which works day and night. While the works continue at Bargoed there is little hope of a great deal of improvement.

It has been decided to install two more deposit gauges in the district during 1969.







FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

I am indebted to Dr. W. E. Thomas, the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information. The following samples of food were taken in the Gelligaer Urban Area by the County Sampling Officer during 1968 :-

1	Ground Almonds
3	Butter
1	Coffee and Chicory
2	Cooking fat
5	Cream
1	Dessert Powder
1	Fruit
2	Glycerine
1	Ice Cream
1	Jam
1	Meat Product
48	Milk
1	Mixed Peel
1	Rice
1	Salad Cream
1	Sauce
1	Semolina
12	Soft Drinks
1	Vinegar
2	Cough Medicine
1	Liquid Paraffin
1	Skimmed Milk



SERVICES FOR THE AGEDMeals Service

During 1968, there were 91,016 meals supplied to pensioners in the Gelligaer Area. Of these, 57,517 were delivered to the peoples own homes, and the rest were consumed at the 14 Luncheon Clubs set up at Fochriw, Deri, Bargoed, St. Gwladys Court, Pontlottyn, Tirphil, Brithdir, Pengam, Gelligaer, Bedlinog, Trelewis, Cefn Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach and Tiryberth. These Luncheon Clubs continue to be staffed by volunteers and great credit is due to these people without whom this part of the service would fail. The Centres are flourishing in all areas and provide many old people with companionship and the incentive to 'dress up and go out'. The meals to the housebound, and the considerate services of the staff who deliver the meals continue to be greatly appreciated. The provision of meals to the aged is one of the most important functions which the Council has undertaken. Malnutrition is known to occur in the aged, especially when they live alone. An old person may appear to be in a satisfactory state of nutrition but have no adequate nutritional reserves so that illness such as pneumonia may precipitate a state of nutritional deficiency. Physical or mental incapacity may lead to deficient intake of food or to sufficient, but inappropriate, food. Apathy and depression amongst the aged may also result in far from adequate feeding.

Housing for the Aged

There are 51 bungalows for elderly people in the Urban Area. There are also 31 units of accommodation at St. Gwladys' Court, Bargoed, where there is a warden on the premises. The Council also rehouses old and aged persons in ground floor flats and, in certain circumstances where there is hardship, will consider tenants and owner/occupiers for rehousing. Often an old age pensioner lives alone in a large house after other members of the family have died or moved away, and keeping the home warm and clean is a great problem. St. Gwladys' Court continues to provide housing for the fragile aged who, without the security of knowing that they can call on the Warden in an emergency, could not manage on their own. They thus maintain their independence with the security of knowing that help is at hand if necessary. Companionship and entertainment is available for those who wish for these, and a luncheon club is established there.

During 1968, 12 Old Aged Pensioners were rehoused. Only one vacancy occurred at St. Gwladys' Court.

Concessionary 'Bus Fares

Persons living in the district who are Old Age Pensioners continue to enjoy the benefit of reduced 'bus fares made available by the Council.



Glamorgan County Council Services

Home Help Service

In the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division, 707 households were supplied with Home Helps by the Glamorgan County Council in 1968, and of these the occupants in 618 cases were 65 years and over. In 1969, a special Home Help Service was introduced. Five special Home Helps were employed, and these were neighbours of the applicants who lived alone, and had no near relatives. The help provided consisted of light housework and laundry, tending fires, preparing meals, shopping and generally keeping a watch over the frail or ailing persons.

Home Visits

In the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division, 37267 visits were made to patients over 65 by the District Nurses. In addition 2638 visits were made to the elderly by the County's Health Visitors. Welfare Officers of the County also visit the elderly.

Night Sitter-in Service

6 night-sitters were employed in the Health Division by the Glamorgan County Council in 1968, and most of this service was for the elderly.

Chiropody Service

The County's Chiropodists treated 1230 pensioners during 1968 in the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division. Treatment was given in patients' own homes, in Welfare Homes and in Clinics.

Welfare Home, Gelligaer

37 aged persons are accommodated at Brynheulog Welfare Home at Gelligaer.

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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act during 1968.

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MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF COUNCIL STAFF

During 1968, medical examinations undertaken for the Council numbered 159. These included :-

- (a) - Examination of all new employees.
- (b) - Examination of those employees who, because of ill-health are engaged in a temporary capacity .
- (c) - Examination of employees on return to work after illness to ascertain their fitness to carry out their duties satisfactorily. These examinations are of special importance for members of the kitchen staff and 'bus drivers.
- (d) - Requests from heads of Departments to investigate prolonged or repeated absence from work, especially where the integrity of the employee is in doubt.
- (e) - Routine periodical examination of all 'bus drivers.

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FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

In spite of the fact that fluoridation of water supplies is a safe and well proven health measure which confers substantial benefits to dental, and hence to general, health, we are still without this benefit in the Gelligaer Area.

The Glamorgan Health Committee in 1965 agreed in principle to the fluoridation of public water supplies. It is hoped that in 1969 this will be introduced in the Bridgend Area (Mid Glamorgan Water Board). Breconshire, Monmouthshire and Merthyr Tydfil are in favour of fluoridation so that there is every likelihood of the County Council asking these Authorities to join them in approaching the Taf Fechan Water Board with a view to fluoridation of the public water supplies controlled by the Board.

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PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

During the year, the Water Board took 31 samples of water; of these only 1 was unsatisfactory.

Water mains were laid to the new housing sites at Gilfach Bargoed, Pontlottyn and Wyndham Estate, Gelligaer. 520 yards of new pipes were laid at School St., Tirphil. During the year, the reservoir at Deri was discontinued, and the area is now served from the Rhymney supply.

There are 20 hillside farms in the area not connected to a mains supply. In addition, there are 11 houses in the area not connected to the main supply. These are :-

- 5 at Mill Road, Deri which rely on a stand-pipe;
- 3 at Penygraig, Pontlottyn which rely on a spout ;
- 2 at Gypsy Castle, Rhymney Bridge which rely on a spout ;
- 1 at Junction Cottage, Fochriw which relies on a spring ;
- 2 at Sebastopol Cottages, Troedrhiwfuwch which rely on a spring ;

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REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR ..... 1968

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I present my report on the day-to-day routine work of the Public Health Department for the year 1968.

The year generally was uneventful and the work of the Department proceeded smoothly and without any major incident. This is by no means unusual as Public Health Departments are not the most glamorous sections of the Local Government Service, and good health is the birthright and expectation of every man, woman and child. Only when it is absent does the fact hit the headlines. No startling headlines were sought or, indeed, achieved publicity as a result of the work of the Council's Public Health Department in 1968.

Of late years and increasingly so, much of the Department's work was with matters concerned with housing - the detection of nuisances and matters affecting maintenance and repairs; Slum clearance and Closure/Demolition of dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and, latterly, the improvement of houses so as to conform with standards sought and indeed demanded by people at the present time. Overcrowding of dwelling houses, once a common feature, has now almost ceased to exist and is rarely met with. In fact, where a few cases of overcrowded houses are found, it invariably arises as a result of the natural growth of the family and not as a result of a shortage of housing accommodation as previous years.

Work in connection with enforcing maintenance and repair of houses, although still important and a time consuming legal duty of Local Authorities, tends to decrease with the fact that more people today are owner/occupiers rather than tenants. This is reflected in the condition of the houses themselves which, in many cases even in the older type of properties, appear to be well maintained and well decorated both internally and externally. Much of this work is of necessity carried out by the efforts of the householders themselves and tribute must be paid to these largely self-taught exponents and 'do-it-yourself' enthusiasts for the skill which they have acquired and put into practice in improving generally the appearance of their homes.

Despite both the local and national publicity which has been given to the Government's Improvement Grant Schemes concerned with dwelling houses, it is a matter of astonishment how comparatively few people have already taken advantage of the facilities offered. It is a surprising fact that there are still houses in the Urban Area which lack even such a common place fitment as a kitchen sink, and have perforce still to contend with a bowl or bucket beneath the kitchen cold water tap for the disposal of domestic waste water, having no other source of water supply to the premises and with the only means of hot water being derived as a result of boiling a kettle on the kitchen fire or stove. Very many dwelling houses continue to be without a fixed bath and water closet, although thanks mainly to the Improvement Grants made available, and which the Council has done everything possible to publicise and encourage, these are slowly but surely being reduced in numbers. Through the courtesy of the Clerk's Department I produce a table showing the number of Improvement Grants made to applicants for the improvement of dwelling houses of which they are the owners-





Number of Improvement Grants allowed in 1968	-	72
Number of Discretionary Grants paid	-	23
Number of Standard Grants paid	-	49

Below is a comparison of the Improvement Grants paid during the past few years :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Discretionary Grants</u>	<u>Standard Grants</u>
1960	48	9
1961	24	24
1962	28	19
1963	33	24
1964	40	26
1965	30	21
1966	42	80
1967	41	22
1968	23	49
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	309	274
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During the year work commenced on the complete rehabilitation and improvement up to modern standards of St. Cattwg Avenue, Gelligaer, formerly known as Harp Terrace but renamed and merged with the new development area after acquisition by the Council.

Among former dwelling houses Closed or Demolished as unfit for human habitation during 1968 were the following :-

7 houses at Hills Terrace, Hengoed  
 4 houses at Pit Row, Fochriw  
 4 houses at Coedcae, Tirphil  
 No. 7 Arch St., Pontlottyn  
 Royal Arms, Pantywaun.

In addition, preparation for the making of two Clearance Orders comprising a total of 65 dwelling houses in the High Street, Victoria Street, Picton Street and Arch Street areas of Pontlottyn were completed. Four ruinous former dwelling houses at Bridge Street, Bargoed, and two such premises at Pleasant View, Tirphil were demolished and the sites properly cleared up.

#### VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS

At the commencement of the year, the Council revised their previous policy which had been adopted and been in force for a number of years by authorising Council houses under their control to be subject to routine inspection by the Public Health Inspectors and as a result 402 dwelling houses on various estates were inspected and reported upon to the Housing Committee. This change of policy has proved of undoubted benefit in many ways such as bringing to the attention of the Housing Committee infringements of tenancy, and assisting tenants in the more expeditious execution of necessary repairs and maintenance works, thus tending to curb increasing maintenance costs.



I am grateful to Mr. D. W. C. Morgan, Clerk of the Council, for the following figures :-

Number of houses on which Demolition Orders were made	-	nil
Number of houses on which Closing Orders were made	-	2
involving whole of the premises	-	2
involving part of the premises	-	nil
Number of Closing Orders revoked following undertakings by owners accepted by the Council	-	nil
Number of houses demolished as a result of Compulsory Purchase or Clearance Orders	-	nil
Number of families rehoused as a result	-	2

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1953  
RENT ACT 1957

Number of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	-	nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	-	nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	-	nil
Number of undertakings by owners accepted by the Council	-	nil
Number of applications for Revocation of Certificates accepted	-	nil
Number of Certificates revoked by the Council	-	nil
Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair refused	-	nil
Number of visits made to premises by Public Health Inspectors in connection with Certificates of Disrepair	-	nil





In company with the Housing Manager, joint inspections by members of the Housing Department and Public Health staff were made where considered necessary and desirable. Such visits were made to :-

- a) - dwellings as a direct instruction from the Council or Housing Committee, or resulting from complaints by neighbours or interested persons, where the required standards of cleanliness were not being maintained, or were in danger of deterioration;
- b) - dirty or verminous houses, or to houses whose tenants were troubled by infestation of insect pests such as ants or cockroaches ;
- c) - houses which were abused by tenants ; or inspection of houses intended to be occupied by Council tenants with, where necessary , disinfection or disinfection of premises or furniture.

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#### MILKS AND DAIRIES ACTS AND REGULATIONS 1949 - 1959

During the year, differences of opinion and even dispute arose between farmers and producers in the area, and the pasteurising plants over the condition of some of the milk churns supplied by the dairies for the collection and delivery of milk intended for processing. Resulting from this, the Regional Office of the Milk Marketing Board requested the Council to allow a check to be carried out on churns supplied to the producers at the time of delivery to their premises. This was subsequently done by the Public Health Department, the results proving acceptable to both sides.

Milk is produced by 45 farms in the area. The major portion of this is taken in churns from whence it is collected by the Pasteurising Plants which operate outside the area. Since 1961, the Licensing Authority for the retailing of all grades of milk has been vested in the Food and Drugs Authority which for the Gelligaer Area is the Glamorgan County Council. The responsibility for milk sampling also falls on the County Council.

Complaints, apart from the misuse of milk bottles, were few. There were no complaints regarding the quality of milk itself. With regard to the misuse of milk bottles, it is interesting to note that the greater variety of materials used for food packing means that more use is now being made of non-returnable containers for milk, particularly for milk supplies to school children.

#### SCHOOL CANTEENS

The school and school kitchen at Troedrhiwfuwch was closed during the year. For the 31 schools in the area there are 17 school kitchens, some kitchens preparing and cooking meals which are afterwards conveyed in hygienically designed insulated containers to smaller schools where kitchens are not provided. Almost 100 women are employed by the Education Authority in the preparation and cooking of mid-day meals, and while there must of necessity be some fluctuation in these numbers an average of 4,000 meals daily are consumed during the school year. Once again, as in former Annual Reports of this kind, tribute must be paid to both quality and appetising nature of the meals provided, and to the diligence and hard work of all the kitchen staff concerned.

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VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

As a result of complaints received	...	783
In connection with housing repairs	...	510

VISITS MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

To dirty and verminous premises	...	71
As a result of notifiable disease	...	143
To Schools	...	54
To Piggeries and Smallholdings	...	47
To premises without a mains water supply	...	19
To moveable dwellings	...	49
To cinemas and places of entertainment	...	23
To Licensed Clubs and Premises	...	91
To premises conducting Offensive Trades	...	18
To Refuse tips and ash tips	...	61
To rear lanes	...	205
To hairdressing establishments	...	27

INSPECTIONS MADE UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955  
and FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

To dairy premises	...	59
To grocery establishments	...	299
To cafes and restaurants	...	177
To factories and bakehouses	...	204
To butchers' shops	...	147
To School and industrial canteens	...	57
To ice-creameries	...	73
To licensed premises	...	91
To Fish Friers and fish restaurants	...	30



SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Articles of food which are found, on examination, to be unfit for human consumption are dealt with by incineration on the shop premises or, where it is impracticable, by collection by the Council's refuse lorries with subsequent deep burial on the Council's refuse tips ; or , after sterilisation by thorough boiling, used as animal feeding stuffs.

Food found to be unfit during 1968 included the following :-

<u>Canned Fruit and Vegetables</u>	-	464 lbs. Tomatoes.	42 lbs. Fruit Salad;
		113 lbs. Peaches.	94 lbs. Pears;
		14 lbs. Strawberries;	39 lbs. Pineapple;
		127 lbs. Peas.	31 lbs. Apricots;
		42 lbs. Beans.	
<u>Fresh Meats</u>	-	31 lbs. Lamb ;	
		72 lbs. Sheep's Liver;	
		418 lbs. Beef ;	
<u>Canned Meats</u>	-	109 lbs. Corned Beef;	
		45 lbs. Tongue;	
		19 lbs. Steak ;	
		318 lbs. Ham ;	
		45 lbs. Jellied Veal ;	
		17 lbs. Meat Loaf ;	
<u>Fresh and Canned Fish</u>	-	42 lbs. Salmon;	
		13 lbs. Pilchards ;	
<u>Miscellaneous Foodstuffs</u>	-	106 lbs. Soup ;	
		40 lbs. Sugar	
		41 lbs. Coffee ;	
		68 lbs. Biscuits ;	
		13 lbs. Rice ;	
		43 lbs. Flour ;	
		12 pkts. Peas ;	
		26 lbs. Tea ;	
		35 lbs. Jam ;	
		27 lbs. Milk	

The total weight of all foods found to be unfit for human consumption was :-

18 cwts. 24 lbs.





FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955  
FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955 - 60

Principal food retail premises in the Gelligaer Urban Area are :-

Butchers' Shops	-	39
Ice Cream Manufacturers'	-	10
Ice Cream Vendors	-	142
Bakehouses	-	5
Grocery Stores	-	112
Cafes and Restaurants	-	23
Fried Fish and Chip shops	-	17
Public Houses and Clubs	-	63

There are 23 premises in the area registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 - premises which are, or may be, used for the manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. Such foods include meat products such as sausages, faggots, meat pies and pasties, cooked hams and brawns and tongues. Many of these products are becoming monopolised by large specialist manufacturers who distribute their goods wholesale from large controlled depots at frequent and regular intervals. All food premises are frequently visited and inspected in order to see that the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations are adhered to. Most food traders were supplied with copies of the Food Hygiene Regulations when they were first introduced, and copies are still available in the Public Health Department and are quite often supplied to food handlers who have lost or mislaid their original copy. Food manufacturers and food handlers generally readily co-operate in efforts to please their customers and incidentally enhance their businesses by complying with necessary local requirements. In this they are greatly aided by the almost universal improvement of food premises today brought about by the use of laminated plastic materials, glass, or stainless steel used for shop fittings and fixtures, which reduce to the very minimum the need for cleaning and scrubbing in food premises. Almost every shop, however small, has a refrigerator, thus allowing perishable foods to be kept longer and with a greater degree of safety. The main streets of town today are invariably taken over by shops having regional or national coverage, and which consign the small shop keepers to the back streets. Trading methods have drastically changed and it is now the aim of the supermarket to provide all the needs of the housewife under one roof. Grocers no longer confine their sales to groceries but sell meat, while butchers also retail tinned foods and fresh vegetables. With all this, however, there is still need for watchfulness and the application of good basic training and common sense, in efforts to arrive at and maintain high hygienic standards demanded. Complaints of contamination or adulteration of food are still brought into the office, caused by gross carelessness or neglect on the part of food handlers, and among such instances in 1968 were :-

- a) - a loaf of wrapped bread which was found to contain a strip of paper which was probably introduced when one of the ingredients was added in the bakery
- b) - two meat pies which were found to be contaminated by mould when opened by the purchasers.





# CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

Five caravan sites have been approved and licensed in the area by the Council. All caravans on the sites are used as permanent residences by the occupiers, and despite the tendency in different parts of the country there does not appear to be any local inclination for this number to increase. In fact, one site, which has been licensed for 40 caravans, has consistently throughout the year been substantially below the maximum number permitted by the licence. Each of the other four sites are licensed for one residential caravan each only. Gelligaer is fortunate that no itinerant caravans exist, thus the problems and nuisances commonly associated with this type of mobile dwelling does not arise. Although complaints are sometimes received from residents, and conditions approaching nuisances do occasionally occur, every effort is made to enforce the conditions of site licences which are based on Model Byelaws published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the large site in the area.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

291 premises are registered under the requirements of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, the requirements of which relate solely to premises where persons are employed in the trade or business concerned. Details of some of the operations of the Act are as follows :-

Total number of premises registered	...	291
Number of visits made to such premises	...	412
Number of premises generally inspected	...	233
Number of new premises registered in 1968	...	27
Number of accidents to personnel reported	...	9
Total number of males employed	...	707
Total number of females employed	...	818
Total persons employed	...	1525

Of the 9 reportable accidents, 5 were caused by falls to persons while going about their duties; one was caused by the use of a faulty electrical plug; one occurred through a mild explosion due to the pilotlight of a gas cooker becoming accidentally extinguished.

Very many contraventions of the provisions of the Act are still found during the course of routine inspection and it is surprising to find the apathy and ignorance of the legal provisions which still exist. Among contraventions discovered were :-

- a) - absence of, or insufficient first aid materials for use of employees;
- b) - no thermometer displayed, and absence of proper temperature control to premises;
- c) - inadequate provisions for personal washing ;
- d) - a supply of running hot water not readily available for the use of personnel employed;
- e) - inadequate guarding of machinery.

All these infringements were rectified after due warnings to the managements.



PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1961  
BYE-LAWS - HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

All Barbers' and Hairdressing Establishments in the area have been supplied with copies of the Bye-Laws relating to hygiene and cleanliness standards that must be provided and maintained in their premises, which came into operation at the commencement of 1964. There were 41 such establishments known to the Department, some of them being conducted in front rooms of private houses, and probably more unofficial ones carried out by friends and relatives. Infringements of these conditions imposed by the Bye-Laws constitute an offence and are punishable by a fine on conviction.

LICENSED PREMISES AND CLUBS

There are 63 licensed premises in the area, made up as follows :-

29 Licensed Clubs  
 34 Public Houses.

Regular visits were made to all Licensed Premises, both during hours of business and when closed to the public. In past years, very many improvements and additions have been made to premises of this nature, more particularly to Clubs. These improvements apply to both hygienic and sanitary features, and amenities and comforts for the customer or Club member, such as fitted carpets and floor coverings, laminated plastic topped counters and tables are provided, and much more comfortable seating, artificial lighting and ventilation provided. Colour television has also been installed in some premises for the benefit of patrons.

All inspections, especially those in the case of Club premises, are welcomed by the Management or Committee concerned, and the Department is not infrequently consulted when new developments or additional facilities are contemplated. Any infringements of the Acts or Regulations discovered during inspection are immediately notified to the Brewery Company or, in the case of a Club, to the Club Secretary concerned. During the year, letters sent to such people included the following :-

- a) - to repair or renew existing surfaces of counters and shelves ;
- b) - repair or renew defective and burst water pipes and flushing cisterns ;
- c) - requiring the redecoration or repointing of walls and ceilings of rooms;
- d) - requiring the redecoration and cleansing of sanitary conveniences, and the repair of defective doors and fittings.





## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS 1933 - 1958

7 men residing in the area are registered as slaughtermen. There is no slaughterhouse in the Urban District. Almost all fresh meat sold in the shops is brought in from other districts where slaughterhouses are sited, such as at Buttry Hatch, Maesycwmmwr ; Brynmawr, Cardiff and Newport. Meat imported from abroad - i.e. Canterbury Lamb, Argentina or Australian beef, is distributed from cold stores and warehouses situated at the Docks at Cardiff and Newport, distribution being done by large motor vehicles which deliver directly to the retail shops.

During 1968, 16 cottagers' pigs, kept by pig breeders at smallholdings or allotments, were slaughtered for human consumption ; these were all inspected as to fitness for human consumption by your Inspectors.

By arrangement with the Council of the Bedwas and Machen Urban Area, your inspectors also carry out relief work during holidays or periods of illness at the Maesycwmmwr Slaughterhouse.

## PET ANIMALS ACTS 1937 - 1961

Two premises, both in Bargoed, are registered for the sale, and keeping for the purpose of sale, of pet animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, dogs, cats and budgerigars. Both premises were regularly visited during the year, and no complaints arose or were received during the period.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

Since 1959, when the only Common Lodging House in the area was closed, there has been no premises of this nature in operation.





SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1955  
CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

Three persons have been registered by the Council as Scrap Metal Dealers since the Scrap Metal Dealers Act came into operation in 1965. One of these is registered as an itinerant dealer.

Two firms operate in the area, one at Ystrad Mynach and the other at Bargoed.

The urban area, however, is adequately served by several more journeying from nearby towns. Undoubtedly a great deal of unwanted household refuse and articles such as old firegrates, fire irons, discarded clothing and textiles are collected and disposed of by these traders, and one has only to visit their premises and see the vast amount of discarded materials that are collected to realise the problems of disposal that would arise were these businesses not in operation. Since neither of the registered persons collect animal bones or waste meat products, possible nuisance from this source is avoided and no complaints of any kind were received during 1968.

Under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act 1967 a duty is placed upon all Local Authorities to provide places where refuse other than refuse arising in the course of a business may be disposed of at all reasonable times, and the Council has now instituted a collection and disposal system whereby all bulky unwanted household articles may be collected by arrangement with the Council's Cleansing Department. This service is still surprisingly not widely known despite notices which have been published in the local Press and by other means of publicity, and mountain tops and similar unfrequented spots are found littered by collections of old mattresses, beds, suites of furniture and other discarded articles, some of it in a condition to give offence even to the least squeamish persons, and all of it offending aesthetically.

The Civic Amenities Act also gave increasing powers to Local Authorities in connection with the collection and disposal of old and abandoned motor vehicles. It is not generally known that it is an offence punishable on conviction by a large fine to abandon any motor vehicle, or part of a motor vehicle on any land in the open air. Powers are also given generally to Local Authorities to remove and impound vehicles that appear to have been abandoned and to charge the expense of removal and subsequent storage to the owner of the vehicle. It is not always possible to trace the owner of every abandoned vehicle and during 1968 the Department was directly responsible for the removal of 24 vehicles within the area, and responsible through tracing and putting pressure to bear on owners, for the removal of a further 31 abandoned vehicles. By these joint measures, and with the co-operation of the general public, it is hoped that further spoiling of many of the open spaces in the District can be prevented by litter of this nature.



FACTORIES' ACTS    1937 - 1961

85 factories of various type and size operate in the area. These include factories which are engaged in light and heavy engineering, and employing substantial numbers of operatives, and the 'back-room' type of radio and television dealer which may be used only occasionally. Other factories manufacture car components, children's toys, food containers, and various miscellaneous products. With the run-down of the coal industry of late years, upon which this district largely depended, every effort has been made by the Council to attract industrialists into the area so as to provide alternative means of employment, and an area of land has been set aside for this purpose and freely publicised through various media. Frequent visits are made to all factories for the purpose of inspection and enforcement of the Factories' Acts, and factories within the district may be classified as follows :-

Factories to which sections 2,3,4,5,6,and 7 of the Act applies	-    82
Factories to which section 7 only of the Act applies	-     3
Number of visits made to factory premises during the year	- 301.

Six notices were served during the year upon owners or persons responsible directing attention to the Acts or Regulations :-

a) - requiring the provision of adequate sanitary conveniences	-    2
b) - regarding defects to sanitary conveniences	-    2
c) - requiring proper cleaning of walls, windows and ceilings	-    1
d) - requiring redecoration. of internal walls and ceilings	-    1

43 persons - mainly women and old-age pensioners, are employed as Outworkers under the Act. Their work consists of minor alterations to clothing, or the dressing or trimming of moulded rubber articles.





RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Measures involved in the destruction and eradication of rats and mice, and general control of insect pests both within and about dwelling houses and workplaces continued unceasingly throughout the year. In addition, the bi-annual treatment for rats in sewers, which is done with the full co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food continued. These twice yearly treatments have undoubtedly contributed very materially to the control and reduction of the rat population in sewers and drains. In the table produced below, I give further details of routine work carried out during the year :-

	<u>Inspected</u>	<u>Treated</u>	<u>Visits made</u>
Dwelling houses	484	246	619
Business premises	91	32	178
Refuse tips and dumps	76	51	123
Rivers, brooks and culverts	72	33	74

During a hot summer spell, complaint was received of an infestation of insects of the gnat species affecting two neighbouring factories in the Urban District. After investigation, pressure spraying of the walls, windows and ceilings of the factories was carried out resulting in complete eradication and no further complaints from either factory.

An annual contract to keep the premises free from vermin was agreed upon with the Management of one factory. This entails regular inspections and treatments for which a fixed yearly fee is paid to the Council. This system has worked with complete success and the firm concerned expressed complete satisfaction with the arrangements and with the methods employed.

42 dwelling houses were disinfested after infestation by vermin, the majority being by bed bug infestation. This is an increase of 19 houses on the figures dealt with in the previous year.

VANDALISM

Very many complaints continued to be received by all Departments of the Council of the inconvenience and disruption caused to the general public by the action of irresponsible persons in the misuse of public property. This question is also the subject of national concern, and although much discussion has taken place and publicity been given on both radio and television, as well as by articles in the daily newspapers, wanton destruction of such expensive equipment as omnibus shelters, public conveniences, illuminated traffic signs etc. continues and is, in fact, increasing. Many reports on this subject have been considered by the Council and the question of offering rewards for information given by the general public to assist in the detection of offenders has been under frequent consideration. On two occasions public conveniences have been kept closed after being rendered unusable by the activities of these vandals, thus penalising the public at large. It is extremely difficult to suggest a solution to this problem.



One solution appears to be a greater awareness of the fact that these facilities are provided at public expense for the use of the general public, and that when damaged or rendered unusable have to be replaced - again at public expense. Thus, apart from the universal inconvenience caused, this wanton damage touches the pockets of all the inhabitants of the District.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. Thomas

Senior Public Health Inspector







